Ecocritical Perspectives in the Select Works of Indra Sinha, Ursula K. Le Guin, Rachel Carson and Richard Powers

A Synopsis

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Overview:

Nature has always been an inherent part of our lives, whether it was during the prehistoric era or the modern era. Throughout the journey of human life, we have always expressed love and care for nature, our religious and cultural rites give it an important place. However, despite these facts, we cannot ignore the harsh truth that nature has been injured at every point in time. In the modern world, the injury to nature appears to be more severe since people's needs have lost any sense of morality. It is universally acknowledged that the environment in which we live is deteriorating rapidly. The rapid increase in science and technology is gradually leading us to an unhealthy environment. The origin of it lies in the past actions of human beings. Timothy Morton's words should be taken seriously: "The sky is falling, the globe is warming, the ozone hole persists; people are dying of radiation poisoning and other toxic agents; species are being wiped out, thousands per year; coral reefs have nearly all gone. . . Environmental legislation is being threatened around the world." (Morton 10) This is a very serious issue for mankind because the loss of the environment and its components is directly linked with our existence. Anything that poses a threat to the ecosystem is also a threat to our existence on this planet. The over exploitation of nature has led to such miserable circumstances that now we are becoming the victim of ailments that have their roots in human intervention with nature. Glotfelty and Fromm show their deep concern towards the environment and its miserable condition when they write: "…We have reached the age of environmental limits, a time when the consequences of human actions are damaging

the planet's basic life support systems. We are there. Either we change our ways or we face global catastrophe. . . . If we're not part of the solution, we're part of the problem." (Glotfelty and Fromm xx-xxi)

It is crucial to acknowledge that colonialism has a severe impact on the environment in third-world nations. The colonizers' insatiable thirst for power and control resulted in the ruthless and rapid exploitation of the cultural richness and customs of the indigenous colonial population. In order to maintain their leadership, the colonizers exploited the colonies in every possible way. The legacy they left behind is still degrading our environment and natural resources. The introduction of advanced machines and synthetic chemicals for ease in the consumption of natural resources has often resulted in catastrophic outcomes. The postcolonial ecocriticism rising from this convergence offers a theoretical framework for analyzing how literature reflects the ecological problems in the postcolonial environment that result from anthropocentric perspectives.

Colonization conspicuously exploited the environment and cultures of natives and transformed them for the significance of colonizers and this became the basic reason for the production of hybrid forms. In the twentieth century, one cannot call colonization an innocent settlement by the settlers in the respective colonies. The father of African literature Chinua Achebe explored colonization as the acute exploitation of the ecology and the original inhabitants by the powerful elites, exploiting the ecosystem, practicing discrimination among race and culture.

Indra Sinha, in *Animal's People*, has shown the harm afflicted upon the environment, animals and human beings as well in postcolonial India. The root of most of those harms and chaos is perhaps somewhere hidden in the policies and actions of the

colonial government. The East has often been used as some laboratory by the Western rulers and its result has been very disturbing and its pangs can be felt even now. Besides exploiting the material wealth of their colonies, the colonizers have also exploited the serene ecosystem of those colonies.

Ursula K. Le Guin is primarily known for her science fiction works. She has displayed the exploitation of natural resources in the hands of a few powerful masters. The exploiters are devoid of any humanistic approach and they know the materialistic world which, as they perceive, exists to serve them. The scientifically advanced people exploit the resources available in nature and their exploitative adventure leads to mass destruction.

Rachel Carson is famous in terms of the protection of nature and natural resources like air, water, soil and others. Through her books, she spreads awareness among the people. Her genuine consideration for nature can be understood from her nature-centric books. The day-to-day practices of human beings that lead to the destruction of the natural phenomena are the major issues in her books. Being a marine biologist her attention revolves around the existence of marine life and the several causes affecting marine life.

Richard Powers employs his novels to study the effects of modern science and technology. His work presents nature to be the central phenomenon around which life revolves. In a modern world where a number of people are getting themselves engaged in a materialistic life, here we get to see a place where generations pass by but a tree remains there from the very beginning as an identity of that family. Powers's eco-centric approach makes his work more appealing to readers. He not only informs readers but also inspires them to take action towards a greener future.

Research Problems:

Colonialism had a lot of effect on the colonized nations. One of the major aspects in which colonialism and its accompanying economic, cultural and political expansion left a mark on the colonies is about ecological considerations. An ecocritical perspective on literature in the postcolonial nations will help us to uncover the varied ecological voices of the colonized nations. Besides this the uncensored use of technological advancement to consume the natural resources unethically has led to mass destruction of natural resources and an unbalanced world. The usage of chemical-based insecticides, pesticides and fertilizers in agriculture has a far worse effect on the ecology in comparison to the immediate benefits that it yields to the farmers. The relationship between human beings and trees assumes to deliver a wake-up call to protect nature. Against the backdrop of the aforementioned issues this research work entitled '*Ecocritical Perspectives in the Select Works of Indra Sinha, Ursula K. Le Guin, Rachel Carson and Richard Powers',* examines how the aforesaid authors portray them in the select works.

Aims and Objectives:

The present study aims to explore the obvious implications of environmental degradation and its aftermath through the proposed texts.

To study the perverse effect of postcolonial development on the environment and the lives of the marginalized and disempowered people in Indra Sinha's novel *Animal's People.*

To study humans, nonhumans and the realities of the environment against the postcolonial backdrop in Ursula K. Le Guin's *The Word for World is Forest.*

To study the loss of ecology from the unchecked application of chemical pesticides in agriculture concerning Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*.

To study the close contact of mankind with nature and the preservation of forests in Richard Powers's *The Overstory*.

Hypothesis:

Colonization has resulted in the loss of nature and the environment in general and the unchecked application of advanced science and technology has led to the degradation of the ecosystem. The degradation of natural ecosystems due to human intercession, including deforestation, urbanization, pollution and habitat destruction, adversely affects biodiversity and ecosystem services. This loss of ecological cohesion ultimately worsens human well-being, including compromised water and air quality, reduced nutrition security, increased exposure to natural disasters, and atrophied cultural and recreational opportunities.

Tools to be used

The tools to be used would be textual analysis of the selected works by Indra Sinha, Ursula K. Le Guin, Rachel Carson and Richard Powers. A primary reading of the texts will be supplemented with the reading of critical literature, book reviews, journals and interviews. The internet may also prove to be a great tool in this respect.

Research Methodology:

In the proposed research the methodology involves the close analysis of the select novels, the study of the environmental trauma due to multiple reasons and its impact on

the ecosystem and deep connection of people to the natural world concerning the select works.

Modern Language Association (MLA) 9 style sheet format will be followed in the course of the study.

Scope and Limitations:

The purpose of the present study is to render a genuine concern for the environment. The works that have been taken for study have a considerable amount of information to make the readers aware regarding the loss of ecological balance and the coexistence of humans and nonhumans. The study is based on the works of an Indian author Indra Sinha and American authors Ursula K. Le Guin, Rachel Carson and Richard Powers so there is the depiction of Indian, American and some other fictional societies. Therefore, there is immense scope for research in the select works of these authors from different ecocritical perspectives. It will propel people to concentrate more on the ecological challenges, changes and requirements by examining fictional settings in ecological contexts.

The ecocritical reading of the select texts has helped me to employ some major ecocritical approaches. However, the access to a limited number of texts did not allow me to accommodate some other very important types of ecocriticism such as eco-psychology, eco-linguistics, eco-feminism and eco-spiritualism. As several research articles, books and theses are being added frequently to the plethora of nature writing, a sense of incompleteness often pervades any such work in this subject.

Significance of the Research:

This research deals with the colonial and post-colonial impact on the environmental issues in the novels selected for study. The effect of unchecked use of chemical pesticides on the ecosystem. The harmony between people and their environment. It will be helpful to other researchers who will venture into this field of study. It will assist the researchers in dealing with the emerging ecocritical issues.

PLAN OF THE

WORK

It is envisaged to divide the thesis into the following chapters:

Chapter I : Introduction

Chapter II : Literature Review

Chapter III : 'Slow Violence' in Indra Sinha's *Animal's People*

Chapter IV : Postcolonial Ecological Description in Ursula K. Le Guin's *The Word for World is Forest*

Chapter V : Ecocatastrophe in Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*

Chapter VI : Ecocentrism in Richard Powers's *The Overstory*

Chapter VII : Conclusion

Select Bibliography

Chapter I: Introduction

The Introduction would provide an overview of the entire work. It would introduce important terms like Ecocriticism, Postcolonial Ecocriticism, Ecofeminism, Ecosocialism, Slow Violence, Ecocatastrophe and others. The introduction would also focus on presenting an overall view of the four writers Indra Sinha, Ursula K. Le Guin, Rachel Carson and Richard Powers.

During the last few decades, the concern for the environment has been increasing because of its intensive exploitation. Lack of understanding and awareness is a big reason behind the loss of the environment. This concern has led to the emergence of a considerable number of ecocritical texts. Such books have been quite interesting among the readers. Besides entertaining, such books spread awareness of the environment among the readers.

This is the introductory chapter about the history of ecocriticism. Herein the history of colonization and post-colonization and its link with ecocriticism will be discussed. The colonial exploitation was not only limited to the humans but to the nonhumans also. The Colonized nations were used as the experiment house by the colonial masters and often its outcome has been fatal to humans and nonhumans as well.

This chapter will be a study of the biographies of Indra Sinha, Ursula K. Le Guin, Rachel Carson and Richard Powers. Indra Sinha was born in 1950 in a well-to-do family in Mumbai. His father was an Indian naval officer and his mother, Irene Elizabeth Phare, was an English writer who wrote under the name of Rani Sinha. Indra Sinha received his initial education in India and for his higher studies he moved to England and finally, he

moved to Britain with his family in 1967. Before practicing writing as a full-time author, he became an advertising copywriter in London. While working there he translated Vatsyaanaya's *Kama Sutra* into English in 1980. After this, he wrote a monograph on 'tantrism', *Tantra: The Search for Ecstasy* (1993). In 1995 Indra Sinha left his job as an advertising copywriter to become a full-time writer and he started with a non-fictional memoir of the pre-internet generation, *The Cybergypsies* (1993). His first novel *The Death of Mr. Love* was published in 2002, it is based on the notorious Nanavati murder case in Bombay which became the basis for the abolition of the jury system in India. The next novel was *Animal's People* (2007), it is perhaps his best novel and through this masterpiece he got recognition as a renowned novelist. It is set in the fictional city of Khaufpur and is actually based on the Bhopal Gas Tragedy that brought havoc in the city of Bhopal and its outskirts on the early morning of December 3, 1984. In 2007, this novel was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize for Fiction and the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award 2009 as well. In 2008, it won the Commonwealth Writers Prize. Deep concern for the victims of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy compelled Indra Sinha to cofound the Bhopal Medical Appeal which offers medical assistance at free of cost to the victims and the people affected by the toxic air and water of Bhopal after the tragedy.

Ursula K. Le Guin was an American author widely acclaimed for her science fiction works set in the Hainish universe and the Earthsea fantasy series. She was born in Berkeley, California, in 1929. Her mother Theodora Kroeber was an author while her father Alfred Louis Kroeber was an anthropologist. She began her literary career with a poem *Folksong from the Montayna Province* which was published in the year 1959. During her majestic sixty-year writing period, she wrote more than twenty novels, over a

hundred short stories, several poetry collections, literary criticism, many translations and several children's books. She has been referred to as a "Major voice in American Letters". Her initial novels *Racannon's World (1966), Planet of Exile (1966),* and *City of Illusions (1967)* are based on her fictional Hainish Universe, these three novels altogether are known as the Hainish trilogy. Later she wrote her masterpieces *A Wizard of Earthsea (1968)* and *The Left Hand of Darkness (1969),* both of these novels attracted a wide number of readers. In 1973 she wrote another wonderful novel *The Word for World is Forest.* This novel was influenced by the impact of the Vietnam War and it explored the themes of colonialism and militarism. Her Earthsea series novels *The Tombs of Atuan (1971)* and *The Farthest Shore (1972)* received huge appraisal from the readers. Besides such amazing novels, she also wrote a collection of essays titled *The Language of the Night* (1979). Le Guin was famous among her readers for her tremendous fictional short stories some of her short story collections that brought her profuse fame are *The Wind's Twelve Quarters (1975), Orsinian Tales (1976), The Compass Rose (1982), Buffalo Gals and Other Animal Presences (1987), A Fisherman of the Inland Sea (1994), Four Ways to Forgiveness (1995), Unlocking the Air and Other Stories (1996), Tales From Earthsea (2001), The Birthday of the World and Other Stories (2002) and Changing Planes (2003).* Her continuity and hard labor paid her, she won eight Hugo awards, six Nebula awards and twenty-two Locus awards for best works of fiction.

Rachel Carson was a renowned marine biologist, writer and conservationist most of her write-ups are based on the environmental pollution and the history of the sea. She was born in Springdale, Pennsylvania, in 1907 to a well-to-do family. She had a deep interest in nature since her childhood. She was a keen reader too, she began writing stories

at an early age. She published her first short story when she was just ten. Her deep affection and concern for the natural world compelled her to choose biology in her graduation as her major subject, although the fact is that initially she had opted for English Literature as her major subject. After her father died in 1935, she joined the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries, where she wrote for a series of weekly educational broadcasts entitled *Romance Under the Waters.* This program focused on aquatic life and its aim was to aware public about fish. Besides writing for the Bureau she also started writing articles for the newspapers. She was a passionate scientist and her love and care for nature is available in abundance in her books. Carson wrote her first full-length book *Under the Sea Wind (1941),* it is a beautiful narrative of the secrets of the sea. She wrote another mind-blowing work on marine life and the history of the sea, it was entitled *The Sea Around Us (1950).* For this book, she received the National Book Award for Nonfiction in 1952. She wrote another book focusing on the coastal ecosystem entitled *The Edge of the Sea (1955).* In 1945 Carson for the first time came to know about DDT and its adverse effect upon the environment. She was engaged in the close study of pesticides, their use in agriculture and their effect on the environment. Her genuine concern to save the ecosystem from poisonous pesticides resulted in her most influential book written ever and it was entitled *Silent Spring* (1962). It played an important role in the development of the contemporary environmental movement.

Richard Powers is widely known for his creative novels mostly based on the effects of modern technology and contemporary social issues. His first novel was *Three Farmers on Their Way to a Dance (1985).* Powers saw the *Young Farmers* photograph at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston in 1980 and he was so much inspired by it that he quit

his job and decided to write a novel on it. His next novel *Prisoner's Dilemma (1988)* narrates the story of a family that was disturbed by the impact of some historical events. *The Gold Bug Variations (1991)* is a novel that narrates the discovery of the chemical structure of DNA with the musical rhythm of Johann Sebastian Bach's harpsichord. Some of his novels that made him popular are *Operation Wandering Soul (1993), Galatea 2.2(1995), Gain (1998), Plowing the Dark (2000), The Time of Our Singing (2003), The Echo Maker (2006), Generosity: An Enhancement (2009), Orfeo (2015), The Overstory (2018) and Bewilderment (2021).* For his unmatched contribution to the literary world, he was awarded with several literary prizes. He won the National Book Award for Fiction in 2006 and the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 2019 for *The Echo Maker* and *The Overstory* respectively.

Chapter II: Literature Review:

The critical study of ecology and the impact of human interaction in the environment portrayed in the select novels has been made possible with the help of the following literary pieces. The discussion in this research is based on the acclaimed literature that is directly or indirectly concerned with the study. By accumulating insights from literary criticism, cultural studies, environmental philosophy and interdisciplinary research, this review aims to bring out key themes, debates and methodologies in ecocritical inquiry.

The Ecocriticism Reader: Landmarks in Literary Ecology edited by Cheryll Glotfelty and Harold Fromm is an anthology of highly classified essays on the field of literary ecology. This book explores the relationship between literature and the physical

environment. The essays in this book describe ecological literary discourse and sketch its development over a period of time.

In *Postcolonial Ecocriticism: Literature, Animals and Environment*, Graham Huggan and Helen Tiffin analyze the relationship between humans, animals and the environment in postcolonial texts. This book is divided into two sections, the first section considers the postcolonial texts from the environmental perspective and the second section considers the postcolonial texts from a zoocritical perspective. The book focuses on a few issues like narratives of development in postcolonial writings, entitlement and belonging in the pastoral genre, colonial exploitation and the Christian mission, animality and spirituality.

Graham Huggan in his research article *"Greening" Postcolonialism: Ecocritical Perspectives* writes about the viable areas of convergence between postcolonial criticism and ecocriticism. Though both of these areas of study have some differences yet they share similar concern for social justice and transformation. In this article, Huggan goes through three texts written by Arundhati Roy, J. M. Coetzee and Barbara Gowdy and points out that postcolonial criticism and ecocriticism exist in part as mutual restoratives.

Varieties of Environmentalism: Essays North and South written by Ramchandra Guha and Joan Martinez-Alier tends to enunciate the values and preferences of environmentalism of the poor and explore the contradictory priorities of South and North that were highlighted at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. The book presents a critical study of the environmental struggles and ideologies in four continents: North and South America, Asia and Europe. The authors present the nature and history of environmental movements in an innovative manner, which shows the issues and processes behind them.

Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor written by Rob Nixon focuses on the violence created by climate change, toxic drift, deforestation, oil spills and the environment after war that keeps on deteriorating and remains often invisible. Nixon uses Slow Violence to drive our senses toward the calamity that emerges because of our silence and inattention to these issues. Nixon states that the poor people who lack resources are the principal victims of slow violence. In this book, Nixon examines a few writers-cum-activists who are linked with the environmentalism of the poor in the global south.

The book *Postcolonial Green* combines research that connects two fields: ecocriticism and postcolonialism. Ecocriticism, since its beginning, has been criticized for not paying enough attention to how colonialism affects our understanding about nature and the environment. On the other hand, postcolonial discourses have been mostly based on issues about nationalism and identity, sometimes ignoring environmental issues. This book exemplifies that ecocriticism and postcolonialism are like two sides of the same coin—they're both part of a grand effort to make the world better and more sustainable.

The research article *"Articulating a World of Difference: Ecocriticism, Postcolonialism, and Globalization"* written by Susie O'Brien examines the convergence of ecocriticism, postcolonialism, and globalization. It explore how these three frameworks interact and shape our apprehension of environmental concerns in a global setting. The article describes how ecocriticism has historically been criticized for overlooking colonial legacies, how postcolonialism has often sidelined ecological issues, and how globalization regulates both fields. It fences that by incorporating ecocritical,

postcolonial, and global perspectives, scholars can explicate more subtle analyses of environmental concerns and contribute to the efforts for global justice and sustainability.

The Oxford Handbook of Ecocriticism is an extensive collection of essays that delves into the field of ecocriticism from diverse perspectives. It embraces a wide range of topics, including the historical sources of ecocriticism, its interdisciplinary nature, key concepts and themes and its global reach. The handbook analyzes how literature exemplifies human interactions with the natural world and addresses urgent environmental issues such as climate change and environmental debasement. It also discusses the relationship between ecocriticism and other field of studies such as postcolonialism, feminism and animal studies.

The article *Ecocentrism and Anthropocentrism: Moral Reasoning about Ecological Commons Dilemmas* analyzes two different perspectives people hold about the environment: ecocentrism and anthropocentrism. Ecocentrism concentrates on the importance of nature itself, seeing it as valuable irrespective of its usefulness to human beings. Anthropocentrism, on the other hand, sees nature's worth grounded on its gains to humans. The article discusses how these view-points influence people's decisions in connection with environmental issues, especially in situations where there is a dispute between human needs and ecological preservation. It explores how people think morally when faced with dilemmas related to the use of natural resources.

Chapter III: 'Slow Violence' in Indra Sinha's *Animal's People*

This chapter seeks to present a postcolonial ecocritical study of Indra Sinha's *Animal's People* by examining how the novel deconstructs the binary opposition between human and nonhuman beings. This chapter deals with the destruction of the environment and mankind and the persistent plight caused by a disaster resulting from the negligence of the postcolonial capitalists. In this chapter, the concept of "slow violence", which was coined and defined by Rob Nixon in his book *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor,* has been closely studied concerning the aforementioned novel.

The term postcolonial refers to the socio-economic, political and religious challenges faced by natives in accepting their own culture and religion after decolonization. Besides these issues there is a big issue to be taken under consideration and that one is the loss of ecology. The Colonial masters left their colonies but before leaving the colonies they brought in such fatal activities that were not supposed to be over with the departure of the colonial masters. Indra Sinha in his renowned novel *Animal's People* has penned down the predicament of the people of Khaufpur, particularly a boy named Animal, after an industrial catastrophe. This novel is in the form of fiction and is based on an actual tragedy that took place in Bhopal in December 1984, popularly known as Bhopal Gas Tragedy. Toxic waste from the disaster had left Animal with a twisted spine and forced him to walk on his hands and feet. Therefore, he has been given the name Animal.

The conflict in the novel between nature's limited capability of absorbing lethal chemical contamination and the capitalistic expansion of production is one of the key themes of the study. Animal can be read as a personification of the outcome when the

power of industry outweighs the need for environmental precaution. The struggle between the American company that ran the factory responsible for the industrial disaster and the people of Khaufpur in *Animal's People* is related to the environmental justice movement in a developing country as well as the hierarchy of power in a society. The novel emphasizes the concept of 'Slow Violence'. Rob Nixon defines slow violence as violence that occurs gradually and out of sight, dispersed across time and space and is not viewed as violence.

Chapter IV: Postcolonial ecological description in Ursula K. Le Guin's *The Word for World is Forest*

This chapter attempts to study Ursula K. Le Guin's *The Word for World is Forest* from the perspective of postcolonial ecocriticism. This chapter deals with the devastation of the ecosystem of the planet Athshe at the hands of the Terrans. The terrans, who are the people of Earth, have already exhausted the natural resources on the Earth and now they plan to plunder other planets. This chapter examines the love and devotion of the Athsheans for the environment and their struggle against the exploiters.

The novel *The Word for World is Forest* is a beautiful novel that depicts the story of a fictional planet Athshe. The story centers around a Terran military logging colony on the planet Athshe. After much exploitation of natural resources on Earth the humans, termed Terrans in this novel, realized that the woods on Earth had finished and so they started plundering other planets for wood. The Terrans discovered the planet Athshe having dense forest and the human beings residing there were quite innocent. The Terrans captured the ignorant Athsheans and treated them very rudely. The technologically advanced Terrans took the Athsheans as their servants and inflicted violence on them

unnecessarily. The violence against the Athsheans increased to such an extent that a Terran military captain dares to rape and murder an Athshean woman. This brutal act transformed the noble Athsheans into fierce ones. They began revolting against the Terrans and ultimately succeeded in driving them out of their planet. But during this struggle, they lost their nobleness and their non-violent nature. They experienced a drastic change in their environment. The combat led to severe damage to the serene ecosystem. The novel conveys a clear message against colonialism, militarism and harm to nature.

Chapter V: Ecocatastrophe in Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*

This chapter is meant to study Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* from the perspective of ecocatastrophe. This chapter deals with the application of chemical pesticides in modern agricultural practices that lead to serious damage to the ecosystem. This chapter explores the ecological disaster due to wrong practices in modern agricultural systems. This chapter raises awareness of the ecosystem loss caused by unchecked chemical pesticide usage.

The term ecocatastrophe refers to a calamity caused by the behavior of mankind that has a great deleterious concussion on the environment. Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring* was a milestone in developing the modern environmental movement. Her book not only caught the attention of the common readers but also of the scientific community about the adverse effect of pesticides on the natural world. This book explicates the disastrous effects of the reckless use of agricultural chemicals, pesticides and several modern synthetic chemicals. It foregrounds that such practices cause severe environmental degradation, detrimental effects on bird and animal populations and pose grave health risks to humans. The use of chemical pesticides not only targets specific

pests but also causes damage to non-target factors, resulting in widespread destruction. Her book asserts the scientific study of the harmful effects of chemicals on water bodies and the consequential damage to marine life.

Chapter VI: Ecocentrism in Richard Powers's *The Overstory*

This chapter studies Richard Powers' *The Overstory* from an ecocentric perspective. This chapter studies the deep connection between humans and nature. The important role of trees and forests in the culture and rituals is also a matter of study in this chapter. This chapter promotes the sense of preservation of trees and forests.

The book *The Overstory* introduces nine characters throughout separate sections, each experiencing the significant role of trees in their lives. In this captivating novel, Richard Powers skillfully divides the story into four distinct sections, each named after the different parts of a tree: Roots, Trunk, Crown and Seeds. Every major event in the lives of the characters is associated with the appearance of a tree. For a family, trees are not just a source of food, shade and fresh air, they are also the symbol of identity and growth. They are a beautiful reflection of the family's journey. Trees in this book appear as some uniting factors that play a pivotal role in framing the storyline. Trees often appear as the guiding agents, they inspire and rejuvenate the characters in dilemma. Trees and forests have been exhibited as the central phenomena around which the entire mankind exists. The book promotes the idea of planting and preserving trees.

Chapter VII: Conclusion

This is the concluding and the final chapter in which suggestions and findings of current research will be discussed. This chapter focuses on the similarities and

dissimilarities under the lense of ecocritical approaches in the select works. The factors that make these books either common or different from each other will also be analyzed in brief.

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